Butler County General Health District
Hepatitis A Outbreak Investigation Update (09/16/19)

Hepatitis A Cases
Butler County Residents, 2018-2019

Total # of Confirmed Cases: 409*
Outbreak-Linked Cases: 408† (as of 09/16/19)
Total Number of Deaths: 2
First Case Reported: 1/9/2018
Last Case Reported (so far): 9/9/2019
Age Range: 3-84

The average number of confirmed Hepatitis A cases in Butler County in the past (2013-2017) was 0 to 1 case per year.

Note: On May 28, 2019, with much discussion with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) updated the working case definition regarding the state-wide community Outbreak of Hepatitis A. The new case definition now includes all the previous cases that had not previously been deemed linked to the outbreak. The new case definition can be found on page 4 of this report. As the outbreak’s pace slows down in Butler County and across the state, ODH in conjunction with the local health jurisdiction have continued to refine and investigate all cases in the state. In recent weeks, old cases have been reviewed to determine if they still belong in the outbreak, and those whose linkage to the outbreak has been questioned have been reevaluated. In the course of the investigation, a number of cases were determined to longer fit the confirmed case definition of the disease. Of the three cases in Butler County that were not linked to the outbreak, two have been identified as fitting the outbreak as defined on page 4, and one case has been excluded while remaining a confirmed case of disease. Please direct any questions you may have regarding the new case definition to the Butler County General Health District (513)-863-1770.

Figure 1 shows all “confirmed” Hepatitis A cases in Butler County as of 09/03/19. Due to delays in reporting, the numbers of confirmed cases on Figure 1 are subject to change between weekly reports and confirmed case counts for the most recent weeks are more likely to increase.

*Data is provisional – only confirmed Hepatitis A cases are included in counts. Report reflects time period of the 2018-2019 Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak (Jan 2018 – Present), measured in MMWR week intervals, unless otherwise noted. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 08/19/2019.

**Case that was reported on 09/09/2019 has an actual onset date of February, 2019

†Case definitions for confirmed outbreak-linked cases are those that meet ODH-specified clinical and laboratory criteria, which are provided on page 4 of this report.
Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases – Demographic Information
Butler County Residents, 2018-2019
(as of 09/16/2019)

The Ohio Department of Health has declared a community outbreak of hepatitis A after observing an increase in cases linked to certain risk factors since the beginning of 2018. Outbreaks of hepatitis A are occurring in several states across the US, including Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and West Virginia.

Source: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa

Table 1: Outbreak-Linked Cases by City (Top Three Cities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>% of Outbreak-linked cases</th>
<th>Rate of Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>31 per 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>24 per 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield + Fairfield Township</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>8 per 10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3 and Table 1 show data for the cities in Butler County with the highest numbers of outbreak-linked cases of Hepatitis A as of 09/16/19.
ODH Update: Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases

ODRS Outbreak Title: Hepatitis A Statewide Community Outbreak 2018

Hepatitis A Outbreak Summary (August 19, 2019):

- **Number of cases**: 3327
- **Illness onset range**: 01/05/2018 - 09/09/2019
- **Age range**: 1-89 years
- **Gender**: 61% male
- **Number of hospitalizations**: 2035 (61%)
- **Number of deaths**: 16
- **Number of counties with cases**: 82 (93%)

For more information, please call the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Infectious Diseases at (614) 995-5599.

Page Updated: 09/16/2019
Source: [https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa](https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa)
Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak Case Definition:

CLINICAL CRITERIA

An acute illness with a discrete onset since January 1, 2018 of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain),

AND

• Jaundice or elevated total bilirubin levels $\geq 3.0$ mg/dL, OR
• Elevated aspartate aminotransferase (AST) or alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels (>200 IU/L)

AND

• The absence of a more likely diagnosis

LABORATORY CRITERIA

• Immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody to hepatitis A virus (anti-HAV) positive, OR
• Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for hepatitis A virus RNA positive (including PCR or genotype testing)

CONFIRMED HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK CASE

• A case that meets the clinical criteria and is IgM anti-HAV positive, OR
• A case that has hepatitis A virus RNA detected by NAAT (such as PCR or genotyping), OR
• A case that meets the clinical criteria and occurs in a person who has an epidemiologic link (household contact, drug partner, or sexual contact) with a laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A case 15–50 days prior to onset of symptoms

EXCLUSIONS

A case will be excluded if any of the following conditions apply:

• In the absence of known risk factors (injection or non-injection drug use, men who have sex with men, homelessness, or incarceration), any case that occurs in a patient who reports travel to a country or U.S. territory with endemic hepatitis A during the 15–50 days before symptom onset, OR
• Any case that is linked to a foodborne outbreak by related sequencing, OR
• In the absence of known risk factors (injection or non-injection drug use, men who have sex with men, homelessness, or incarceration), any case that is epi-linked to a foodborne outbreak, OR
• Any case with a specimen collected within four weeks of symptom onset that is negative for HAV RNA

For more information, please call the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Infectious Diseases at (614) 995-5599.
Page Updated: 09/16/2019
Source: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa
Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases by County, Ohio, 2018-2019

September 16, 2019

Data analyzed 09/16/19. Outbreak Response and Bioterrorism Investigation Team, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, Ohio Department of Health, 2019.
What is Public Health Doing to Decrease the Number of Hepatitis A Cases in Butler County?

Every case is interviewed and all contacts are assisted to get vaccinated. In addition:

- **Vaccination**: As of 09/16/19, 2,623 vaccinations given to high risk groups (illicit drug users, incarcerated, homeless, and men who have sex with men) by the three public health departments / districts in Butler County. Additional vaccinations have been given by providers and clinics.

- **Education**: As of 09/16/19, 30,074 information cards given to healthcare and drug treatment providers, hospitals, clinics, restaurants, homeless shelters, jails, and the public via fliers, faxes, website, social media.

- **Policy Change**: As of 09/16/19, 15 policy changes requested of healthcare and drug treatment providers, insurance companies, restaurants.

- **Sanitation**: As of 09/16/19, 26,340 information cards about sanitizing to prevent Hepatitis A given to restaurants, food service workers.

Butler County General Health District / City of Hamilton Health Department / Middletown City Health Department 9/16
Hepatitis A

What is hepatitis A?
Hepatitis A is a highly contagious (spreads person-to-person) liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (germ). Mild cases can last a few weeks while severe cases can last several months.

How is hepatitis A spread?
Hepatitis A spreads by putting something in your mouth (object, food, or drink) that has been in contact with the feces (poop) of an infected person.

Hepatitis A can be spread by:
- Forgetting to wash your hands after using the bathroom or changing diapers
- Having sexual contact with infected partner(s)
- Consuming food or drinks that are contaminated by the virus

Who is at risk for hepatitis A?
Anyone can get hepatitis A, but you are at a higher risk if you are in one of these groups:
- IV and other illicit drug users, including marijuana
- Those incarcerated or recently in jail
- Those experiencing homelessness
- Men who have sex with men
- Those having sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis A
- Those who live or work with someone who has hepatitis A

What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?
Not everyone shows symptoms. If symptoms develop, they usually appear 2 to 6 weeks after infection. Symptoms can include:
- Fever
- Feeling tired
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Dark urine (pee)
- Grey stool
- Joint pain
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes

How is hepatitis A treated?
Treatment includes rest, good nutrition, fluids, and medical monitoring. Some people may need to be hospitalized. Most people who get hepatitis A recover completely and don’t have lasting liver damage. It’s important to see a doctor if you have symptoms of hepatitis A.

How can hepatitis A be prevented?
The best way to prevent hepatitis A is by getting vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and effective. You can get a shot for hepatitis A at:
- Your own doctor or primary care provider
- Primary Health Solutions
- Centerpoint
- Local pharmacies (Kroger, Walgreens, CVS, Meijer, Walmart, etc.)
- Retail clinics (Kroger Littler Clinic, etc.)
- Urgent care offices.

If you have no insurance or have other barriers to getting vaccinated, please contact the Butler County General Health District (513-863-1770), City of Hamilton Health Department (513-785-7080), or the City of Middletown Health Department (513-425-1818).

You can also prevent the spread of hepatitis A by washing hands with soap and water:
- Before eating or preparing food
- After using the bathroom or changing diapers

(12/11/18)
Butler County is currently a leader in the state in cases of *Hepatitis A*

**Vaccination provides the surest way to prevent the disease**

High risk groups in particular should get vaccinated: IV and other illicit drug users including marijuana users, those incarcerated or recently in jail, those experiencing homelessness, and men who have sex with men. This includes those who live or work with these high risk groups. Others who want to be protected are also encouraged to get vaccinated. Food handlers in the high risk groups are encouraged to get vaccinated!

**Where can I get a shot for Hepatitis A?**

- Your own doctor or primary care provider
- Primary Health Solutions
- Centerpoint
- Local pharmacies: Kroger, Walgreens, CVS, Meijer, Walmart, etc.
- Retail clinics: Kroger Little Clinic, etc.
- Urgent Care Offices
- Butler County General Health District (513-863-1770), City of Hamilton Health Department (513-785-7080), or City of Middletown Health Department (513-425-1818) if you have no insurance or other barriers.

**Please call for pricing, accepted insurances, and availability of vaccine**

Revised 11/2018